

Family of six dies of suffocation in Lagos

Kunle Adeyemi

TRAGEDY struck a Lagos family on Monday when a device that had been a source of succour for its members turned out to be their common source of death.

The family of six lived at 23, Oluwale Lawson Street, Ijegun, Ikotun, on the outskirts of Lagos, where the disaster occurred as a result of the smoke from their power generating set.

Our correspondent learnt that the family, headed by the father, Mr. Innocent Orukpe, had gone to bed shortly after dinner on the fateful day.

It was learnt that the Power Holding Company of Nigeria had cut off electricity supply to the area before the family went to bed.

Orukpe had, therefore, put on his power generating set, which was said to be placed very close to the family's living room.

It was gathered that the family had gone into a deep slumber until about 5am when the father was rudely awoken by the asphyxiating smoke of the power generating set.

At that point, he was only able to make a very feeble attempt at calling his neighbours' attention to his family's predicament.

One of the few neighbours who first got to the Orukpes' apartment, went to the Ikotun Police Station to report the incident, when it was realised that all the members of the family were affected.

A team of policemen was sent to the house and the se-

curity men reportedly assisted in taking the victims to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja.

Although the medical personnel at the hospital tried to revive the victims, it was learnt that all the six died one after the other within a few hours of their admission.

When our correspondent visited the hospital on Tuesday, he was informed that the corpses had been deposited at the mortuary pending the arrival of the victims' relations.

However, a family friend to

the Orukpes, one Chukwudi (surname unknown), who was on a visit to the house when the incident happened, was said to be the only survivor.

Doctors, however, said Chukwudi's condition was very critical and he had been taken to the intensive care unit of the hospital for more attention.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, who confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Wednesday, said the police were investigating the tragedy.

Two get seven-year jail term for attempted murder

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

FOR attempting to murder a lawyer, two persons, Asimiyu Akintayo and Rasaki Akinpelu, have been sentenced to seven years each in jail by an Osogbo Magistrate's Court.

The suspects pleaded guilty to the two-count charge of conspiracy and attempted murder but the third suspect, Idowu Owwoeye, pleaded not guilty to the charge.

According to the charge sheet, the suspects attempted to murder the lawyer, Mr. Remi Ayoade, of 18, Ikirun Road, Osogbo on December 2, 2006, at Kelebe area of the town.

The suspects were also alleged to have conspired to set ablaze Ayoade's house situated at Oduola Street, Off Ayetoro, Osogbo.

Police prosecutor, Sergeant John Idoko, said the two suspects possessed criminal

records, adding that Asimiyu, on interrogation, confessed and named other members, who were to execute the plot.

Neither Idoko nor the suspects told the court the motive behind the attempt to murder Ayoade.

The magistrate, Mr. Jide Falola, noted that criminals should not be allowed to operate freely within the society, adding that the need for criminals to undergo prison reformation was imperative.

He sentenced the two suspects to five years jail term each on the first count just as each of them bagged two years on the second count.

Falola, who ordered that the jail terms of each of the suspects run consecutively, also ordered that the third suspect should be remanded in prison custody until July 25, 2007, when the case would come up for hearing.